
FIRE FACT NO. 003 CHECKLIST(s) : 99
TITLE : ZERO TOLERANCE VIOLATIONS IN SCHOOLS
CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 99-14, 16, 38
REFERENCE(s) : 91-101/5-2.1.5.5, 91-101/31-1.3 & 31-1.3.6
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For several years now, fire prevention inspectors have inspected schools using consistent criteria published in documents distributed by the Kansas State Fire Marshal. Items not meeting the criteria found in the checklists are considered distinctly hazardous. The following three distinct hazards present an imminent threat to school building occupants and are intolerable.

- 1) Exit doors equipped with panic hardware, which are chained and/or padlocked closed.
(See FIRE FACT #014 – Locking Arrangements.)
- 2) The fire alarm system is impaired and no work is in progress to restore it to an operable condition.
- 3) An existing automatic sprinkler system is impaired and no work is in progress to restore it to an operable condition.

Any of these three conditions require IMMEDIATE corrective actions.

These deficiencies pose active threats to children's lives. Efforts to educate administrators, architects, engineers, and construction supervisors have not achieved safe exiting. K.S.A. 31-144 requires the state fire marshal to assure compliance and we intend to take additional stronger measures to achieve this.

We recognize that assuring safe exiting during construction can be challenging. It may be necessary to consult a licensed fire protection engineer or other professional. Wherever exiting is inadequate, the state fire marshal's office will take all necessary steps to protect the lives of school children including immediate evacuation and in these cases, buildings may remain unusable for classes until the problem is corrected and appropriate planning for continuous safe exiting is shown.

